GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2706
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
KHEL RATNA AWARD
Meinya Dr. Thokchom

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for awarding Khel Ratna to sportspersons;

(b) whether any discretion is being exercised by the jury while selecting the awardees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some deserving sportspersons have not been short-listed for this award; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS(DR. M. S. GILL)

(a) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is conferred upon a sportsperson whose performance at the international level was most spectacular and outstanding during the year under consideration. Sportspersons found positive for use of prohibited drugs are not eligible for award.

(b) & (c):The selection is made by an independent Committee constituted by the Government, which mainly comprises eminent sportspersons and sports administrators. Subject to the eligibility criteria specified by the Scheme, the Committee determines its own procedure for selection and if necessary can obtain inputs from experts. The selection is made by consensus, failing which by majority decision.

(d) & (e): The nominations for the Award are made by recognized National Sports Federations, the India Olympic Association and State Governments/Union Territories.